GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:615
ANSWERED ON:21.02.2003
ASSISTANCE TO WOMEN
SHIVAJI MANE

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the poor women living in the rural areas of Maharashtra are being provided assistance by NABARD through its programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of districts covered under these programmes during last two years alongwith the programme-wise details of number of women provided assistance?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBAADSUL) :

(a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it provides refinance facilities for approved purposes to the banks in respect of their onlending to the farm and non-farm activities which are gender neutral. However, it also has exclusive promotional schemes for development of women for their credit needs. The details of the assistance provided to the poor women living in rural areas in Maharashtra are indicated below:

i) NABARD has sanctioned assistance under its Assistance to Rural Women in Non-Farm Development (ARWIND) Scheme in Maharashtra covering 215 women for skill upgradation with a total grant assistance of Rs.9.49 lakh. The activities include clay toys and dolls, agro and food processing, bakery, woollen Galicha making and ready-made garments making.

ii) NABARD has sanctioned assistance under its Marketing of Non-Farm Products of Rural Women (MAHIMA) Scheme in Maharashtra covering 372 women with a grant assistance of Rs.10.24 lakhs.

iii) NABARD has also been supporting setting up of Women Development Cells (WDCs) in Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Cooperative Banks. In Maharashtra, 11 such cells in 5 RRBs, 5 Cooperative Banks and 1 in Maharashtra State Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Bank have been set up. The credit flow to women during 2001-2002 in case of 7 banks with WDCs in Maharashtra was Rs.68.23 Crore, forming about 3% of the total credit flow of these banks.

iv) Under the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) progra-mme, 21,683 SHGs have been formed in Maharashtra as on 31 January, 2003 of which 90% (app.) of these are women SHGs. Over three lakh women members from all the 30 districts of the State have been provided with financial assistance to the tune of Rs.47.78 crore and refinance of Rs.28.64 Crore from NABARD.

v) Under Adivasi Development Programme in Maharashtra, 14000 tribal families and 1000 landless women are being assisted through various economic and social welfare activities in 3 hilly blocks of Thane and Nasik Districts of Maharashtra.

vi) Under the Indo-German Watershed Develop-ment Programme in Maharashtra, about 16,396 women have been assisted under 100 watershed development projects in 21 districts of the state.

(c) The details of the District-wise coverage of programmes and the number of women under the ARWIND and MAHIMA schemes in Maharashtra are given in the enclosed statement.